

## **Cable Communications Advisory Committee (CCAC) Meeting Notes for November 20, 2019**

**Members and county staff in attendance:** Muriel Hairston-Cooper, Dorshae Demby, Steve Boliek, Christina Junior, Vince Doring, Careen Carlton, Liel Carmel and Bernadette Garrett

**Meeting started at 7:02 pm**

### **Agenda items discussed:**

**I. Greet and meet new committee members:** Vince Doring and Careen Carlton

**II. MC Recognition of outgoing CCAC member** (Delayed until Jan 15, 2020 meeting)

**III. September 2019 meeting minutes approved**

### **IV. Cable Budget Discussion:**

**Cable Contract(s)** - Continue to keep an eye on present and upcoming Verizon, Comcast and RCN cable contracts to identify any potential items that require advocacy for county residents (e.g. service, cable budget/cost allocation)

### **V. Future Focus Items:**

**A. 2020 Meeting Schedule** – Committee voted that the meeting schedule for 2020 stay the same as in 2019; any additional logistical item discussions can be conducted via teleconference if applicable

**B. Informational Sessions and County Cable Data Retrieval (continued from 2019)**

1. Christina Junior will reach out to Montgomery County College Cable TV to identify potential dates to sit down and get insight to their cable program
2. Identify and attend (in person or via CCM) to public hearings or sessions pertaining to the county's cable TV budget and/or programming (schedule can be viewed via <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/calendar.html>)

## **VI. Advocacy Strategies**

**A. Cable Franchise Agreement:** Vince Doring shared a cable service issue in his community and neighboring area (e.g. Dickerson, Comus, and Sugar Loaf Mountain) which re-ignited a conversation on the appropriate procedure(s) to advocate for county resident concerns

### **B. Process for Submitting Advocacy Statements and Public Hearing Engagement**

- 1. Submitting Advocacy Letters/Statements:** Committee discussed drafting an advocacy letter concerning the 5% designated in the cable budget to supplement cable entity (e.g. MCPS, MCCC) programs but appear to go to the general fund
  - a. Process for submitting an advocacy letter would be to submit MC Cable Commission Staff
  - b. After review, it would then be sent to the MC Council for consideration
  
- 2. Public Hearing Engagement:** CCAC would seek guidance from MC Cable Commission before submitting public hearing request
  - a. Committee would review the county public hearing schedule to identify items that we would potential what to speak out on
  - b. Next recommended step would be to prepare the message we would like to convey then choose the individual(s) to speak on the CCAC behalf at the public hearing
  - c. Submit request to County Council to be heard at that specific hearing

## **VII. Committee Action Items**

**A. Advocacy Letter:** Draft Letter Outline is located on the committee's Gmail share drive for content contributions and editing

**B. County Council Public Hearing Schedule is located**

1. CCAC is looking for public budget hearings to attend
2. If we decide to present on behalf of CCAC, we will follow the fore mentioned procedures

**VIII. Charter** –Would like to follow up during Jan 15 meeting?

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 pm**